

**From:** NC WARN [ncwarn@ncwarn.org]  
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**Subject:** [External] Take Action on Duke Energy's libel threat, subversion of democracy

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*Building People Power for Climate & Energy Justice*

## Duke Energy's Libel Threat, Climate-Wrecking & Subversion of Democracy

Support for our CEO challenge grows – including the national Americans Against Fracking alliance of 300 groups. See the letter we sent to Duke CEO Lynn Good today for the [full list of organizations](#) that have endorsed our call for her to get on the right side of climate history.

People are recognizing the importance of directly challenging the corporate honcho most responsible for the U.S. fracking boom that is a key driver of the global climate crisis increasingly devastating communities here and worldwide.

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### *Please join the effort:*

1. Urge Duke Energy CEO Lynn Good to cancel the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and help avert climate chaos instead of making it worse: email [ceo@duke-energy.com](mailto:ceo@duke-energy.com) and tweet your thoughts @DukeEnergy with #ClimateAction.
2. Have your organization or business [endorse our February 19th letter to CEO Lynn Good](#).

March 22, 2018

Dear Ms. Good,

Your decision not to reply to the [February 19 letter](#) now endorsed by scores of public interest groups, businesses and performer-activists reinforces our complaints that the nation's largest climate polluting utility, Duke Energy: 1) is increasing its greenhouse gas emissions by expanding fracked gas usage; 2) remains only 2 percent renewable in the Carolinas; 3) is driving humanity

toward runaway climate chaos, and; 4) is gambling its own corporate future on hopes that you can keep suppressing news coverage and public awareness about methane emissions and cheaper, clean energy alternatives.

Support for our appeal continues to grow, with recent endorsers including *Americans Against Fracking*, a national alliance of more than 300 groups. All of these people recognize the importance of going straight to the corporate CEO most responsible for the U.S. fracking boom as a key driver of the global climate crisis that is increasingly devastating communities here and worldwide.

The facts cited above obviously crash headlong with your corporate propaganda and influence campaign – fueled by more than \$80 million annually – that has successfully misled and suppressed the media, civic leaders and public response. With your money polluting the democratic process so destructively, we name you personally as “Key Decider” regarding humanity’s fate as climate disruption rapidly approaches a tipping point toward abrupt changes that would likely cause cascading environmental, social and economic chaos from which none of us will escape.

Regarding Duke Energy’s March 9th [threat of a libel suit](#) against NC WARN in response to [evidence](#) we submitted to the NC Utilities Commission showing how its influence money corrupts our society: It is obvious that we struck a nerve by pointing to the ugly under-belly of Duke Energy’s corporate business model – buying influence over decision-makers. To be clear, NC WARN will not buckle to your attempts to silence us.

As recently noted by the most prominent climate activist, Bill McKibben, [the biggest failure](#) by those fighting fervently to slow climate change has been not overcoming the oil-gas-power industries’ prodigious propaganda that has suppressed and distorted methane’s leading role in driving the near runaway climate crisis.

The ironic tragedy is that, as shown by [Rocky Mountain Institute](#), [Environmental Defense Fund](#) and others, capturing 60-70% of the methane instead of spewing it unburned into the air can be achieved at zero net cost. As RMI’s Amory Lovins says,

“Our best chance to address runaway methane emissions is to tighten up the oil and gas supply chain where large amounts of methane are intentionally vented and unintentionally leaked.”

Yet Duke Energy is on record opposing requirements for such prudent requirements, even as many scientists say slowing methane emissions is absolutely necessary if humanity is to avert the point of no return for climate disruption.

To that end, we recently learned that a [United Nations climate panel](#) has joined Dr. Michael Mann and other scientists in arguing that global greenhouse emissions must peak, then start downward no later than 2020 if humanity is to avert that point of no return.

Therefore, we again call on you personally to rise to this unprecedented challenge to help slow

global warming via the critical measures cited in our February 19 letter: 1) Stop venting unburned methane into the air, 2) Cancel the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and plans to build dozens of fracked gas power plants, and 3) Commit to quickly replacing all fossil fuel electricity with renewables matched with energy storage, efficiency and energy-balancing programs as outlined in our [NC Clean Path 2025](#) strategy.

Sincerely,  
Jim Warren  
Executive Director

[Click here to see a list of organizations that have endorsed our February 19th letter](#)

*Now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, NC WARN's mission urgency is to induce Charlotte-based Duke Energy – one of the world's largest corporate utilities – to make a strong shift to clean, affordable energy in order to stem pollution's damage to communities, and to help avert climate tipping points and ongoing rate hikes.*

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